**Telegraph offices/PCOs in the villages**

934. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether only one-third of the villages have access to a telegraph office or PCO within 2 Kms.; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) There are no telegraph offices in the villages except combined offices which are normally a branch Post Office where facility for booking a telegram is available. Over and above, out of 6.07 lakh villages in the country, there are 5.1 lakh Village Public Telephones of BSNL which are nothing but a PCO. Action is being taken to provide a VPT (PCO) in all the remaining villages of the country progressively.

**Waiting list of telephone connections in Shimla**

†935. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) year-wise number of the persons who are in waiting list for telephone connections in Tehsil Chirgaon under Rohdoo Telephone Exchange, Shimla;

(b) whether it is a fact that people living in Bhatwari, Jangla-Torasa, Devighar and Masali panchayats under Chirgaon Tehsil, who have deposited money for telephone connections for several years, are being pressurized by the officials of the Telecommunications Department to withdraw their amount;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the number of people whose names are in the list and for whom telephones have been sanctioned under Member of Parliament and Minister's quota year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are total of five Telephone exchanges in Chirgaon Tehsil in Rohru SDCA. The details for year-wise number of person who are in waiting list for telephone connection are as below:

| Sl.No. | Name of Exchange | Waiting List | | | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | |
| 1 | Bhatwari | 8 | 22 | 0 | 30 |
| 2 | Chirgaon | 47 | 84 | 6 | 137 |
| 3 | Devidhar | 12 | 53 | 8 | 73 |
| 4 | Dhamwari | 14 | 58 | 4 | 76 |
| 5 | Jangla | 24 | 39 | 8 | 71 |

(b) In cases where it is not possible to provide the telephone connection within a year of registration, a communication is addressed to the applicant informing him/her of the reasons of delay in provision of telephone by BSNL. He/she is given an option either to continue with the registration or withdraw the registration. The registration continues in case no response is received. 13 applicants in the said panchayats were informed accordingly in the year 2003-04.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) The details of pending out of turn connections Chirgaon Tehsil are given in the Statement.

***Statement***

*Out of Turn Connections in Chirgaon Tehsil*

| SI. No. | Name & Address of Beneficiary | Year | Exchange | Reason for pendency |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sh. Paras Ram S/o Sh. Kanshi Ram Vill. Shiroli, P.O. Jangla Tehsil Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Jangla | 4.5 Kms from Exchange |
| 2 | Sh. Chain Ram Vill. Shiroli, P.O. Jangla Tehsil Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Jangla | 4.5 Kms from Exchange |
| 3 | Sh. Govind, S/o Sh. Kunji Ram, Vill. Kulgaon, P.O. Jangla Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Jangla | 4.5 Kms from Exchange |
| 4 | Sh. Bhag Chand, S/o Late Sh. Perumal Vill. Bakholi, P.O. Jangla Tehsil Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Jangla | More than 3 Kms. from Exchange |
| 5 | Sh. Surat Ram, S/o Sh. Kahan Chand, Vill. Sangli, P.O. Todsa Tehsil Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Devidhar | 4.5 Kms from Exchange |
| 6 | Sh. Vidya Dutt, S/o Sh. Bhader Singh, Vill. Sangli, P.O. Todsa Tehsil Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Devidhar | 4.5 Kms from Exchange |
| 7 | Sh. Naryan Singh, S/o Sh. Jagar Nath, Vill. Payna, P.O. Goansari Tehsil Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Chirgaon | 6 Kms from Chirgaon |
| 8 | Sh. Gopal Singh, S/o Sh. Vijay Nand, Vill. Charioti, P.O. Kanthli Tehsil Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Chirgaon | 5.5 Kms from Exchange |
| 9 | Sh. Mangat Ram, S/o Late Sh. Kamla Nand Vill. Kulgaon, P.O. Jangla Tehsil Chirgaon Distt. Shimla, H.P. | 2003 | Jangla | 4.5 Kms from Exchange |